

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ ARP: FMDICKMAN

APPROVED BY: NEA- MR. RAPHEL

S/ S- O: J M EALUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

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CNO

SECRET STATE 079254

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE FROM KUWAIT APRIL 26 TH:

QUOTE: KUWAIT 1369

EXDIS

E. O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS KU

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES TO KUWAIT: PURCHASE OF FOLLOW- ON

AIRCRAFT

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH MINDEF SHAIKH SAAD APRIL 25, I TOLD HIM
I CONTINUED BE CONCERNED ABOUT KUWAITI AIR FORCE EXPANSION
PLANS. SAID IF GOK ACCEPTED US F-8 OFFER AND OFFER TRAIN
KUWAIT PILOTS IN US IN 17 MONTHS, FOLLOW- ON AIRCRAFT SHOULD
BE AMERICAN AND NOT FRENCH OR OTHER NON- US PRODUCT.

2. SAAD REPLIED THAT AS RESULT ITS EUROPEAN TRIP, KUWAITI MILITARY
TEAM HAD REPORTED MIRAGE F-1 AS BEST INTERCEPTOR FOR KUWAIT.

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GOK PLANNED GO AHEAD WITH PURCHASE F-1 AS FOLLOW- ON TO F-8
UNLESS US ABLE PRODUCE OFFER THAT KAF CONSIDERED BETTER.

3. I ASKED SAAD IF HE WOULD BE WILLING DELAY FINAL DECISION

ON F-1 UNTIL WE HAD OPPORTUNITY CONSULT AGAIN WITH WASHINGTON.
SAAD SAID HE WOULD WELCOME ADDITIONAL USG THOUGHTS AND HE
WOULD LIKE QTE GO US ALL THE WAY UNQTE. HE SAID HE WOULD DEFER
SIGNATURE ON F-1 CONTRACT FOR SHORT PERIOD PENDING FINAL ANSWER
FROM USG AS TO WHAT WE WILLING DO FOR GOK ON FOLLOW- ON AIRCRAFT.

4. COMMENT: HERE IS OBVIOUS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY PERSUADE
GOK BUY FOLLOW- ON AMERICAN AIRCRAFT FOR ITS AIR FORCE. IF
WE COULD OFFER SELL FOLLOW - ON AIRCRAFT IN 1976-77 TIME
FRAM, GOK MIGHT BE CONVINCED CONTINUE WITH US MANUFACTURED
AIRCRAFT. POSSIBLE OPTIONS MIGHT BE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER,
F-14 OR F-15. IN THIS CONNECTION, DO WE HAVE A TARGET DATE
FOR LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER BEING OPERATION AND ANY SPECIFICATIONS?
F-5 IS NO LONGER VIABLE ALTERNATIVE. KUWAITIS NOT RPT NOT INT-
EREESTED IN F-5.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST AUTHORITY BY COB 28 APRIL LOCAL
TO OFFER TO GOK US WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC FOLLOW- ON
AIRCRAFT AS OUTLINED PARA 4 ABOVE. STOLTZFUS
UNQUOTE ROGERS

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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